

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the following independent claims as such:

Claim 22: A computer program product for secure communications in a message source, the computer program product having a computer readable ~~medium~~ storage device with a computer program embedded thereon, the computer program comprising: computer code for generating a random value;

computer code for generating a message validation code based on a message to be sent, the random value, a predetermined key, and a first one-way hash function;

computer code for generating a one-time pad based on the random value, the predetermined key, and a second one-way hash function;

computer code for generating a masked message based on the message to be sent and the one-time pad;

computer code for generating a protected message envelope based on the random value, the masked message, and the message validation code; and

computer code for transmitting the protected message envelope to a message target, wherein the message target is configured to unmask the masked message to form the message and validate the message using the message validation code.

Claim 23: A computer program product for secure communications in a message target, the computer program product having a computer readable ~~medium~~ storage device with a computer program embedded thereon, the computer program comprising: computer code for receiving a protected message envelope transmitted from a message source;

computer code for extracting a random value, a masked message, and a first message validation code based on the protected message envelope, wherein the random value, the masked message, and the first message validation code are generated at the message source;

computer code for generating a one-time pad based on the random value, a predetermined key, and a first one-way hash function;
computer code for generating an unmasked message based on the one-time pad and the masked message;

computer code for generating a second message validation code based on the unmasked message, the random value, the predetermined key, and a second one-way hash function; and

computer code for comparing the first message validation code to the second message validation code to determine a validity of the unmasked message.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: this is in response to the decision by the Board Of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MACEEH ANWARI whose telephone number is (571)272-7591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00 PM ES.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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M.A.

/John Follansbee/
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